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Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2005 8:23 AM
To: Dabbs, Paul
Cc: Libby Lucas
Subject: California Water Plan Update 2005 - Public Review Draft

July 19, 2005

Paul Dabbs, Statewide Planning Branch
California Department of Water Resources, Sacramento, CA

In regards the California Water Plan Update 2005, Public Review Draft April 2005, please consider the following concerns.

~ P.1-3 It is stated that 2001 is to be the base year for dry year criteria, while P.3-6 acknowledges that 1987 to 1992 was the most recent significant California drought. As we all too well remember the picture of Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite as a bone dry mudflat at end of this drought, please use 1987-1992 as dry year baseline.

~ P.2-7 Volume 2 is said to describe 25 resource management strategies. Do these include native plant landscaping, grazing plans adapted to region and season, (dry year and wet year) and restrictions of watershed recreation such as off-road vehicles?

~P.3-34 Area of Origin Protections is a most important provision of California Water Code. There is serious inequality in pricing of water in Bay Area and too many water contracts are negotiated behind scenes. The Department of Water Resources will be hard pressed to impose credible conservation measures if major drought does occur.

~P.4-19-21 Estimated water demand for agriculture, as in AB2587, is the top priority for State of California which must retain viability of its exceptional farmland resource.

~P.4-21-22 Environmental use of water in ecosystem restoration is critical and needs to reestablish natural hydrological balance between streams and marshes throughout San Francisco Estuary. This is important consideration in invasive species (Spartina and Phragmites) and in environmental impacts to marine life by desalination plants.

~P.4-27-28 Global warming or any dramatic climate change will have enormous effect on natural water storage and delivery systems of this state, and backup infrastructure is not being planned or implemented. East Bay MUD seems to be one of few water districts who has seriously upgraded their infrastructure in the past decade. Another impact that should be mentioned is sea rise will intrude on Bay and coastal aquifers.

Chapter 5 Implementation Plan:

Recommendation 1- Diversify Regional Water Portfolios - should include in action plan restoration of groundwater basins both as to water quality and overdraft.

Recommendation 2- A Need for more groundwater and surface water storage should address southern California's lack of reservoirs as rains regularly reach Los Angeles.
B Design to avoid sedimentation in reservoirs and continued loss of storage capacity.

Recommendation 3- Would covering aqueducts curtail algae bloom water problems?

Recommendation 4- Deferred maintenance of statewide water infrastructure can no longer be acceptable - but no state monies should be spent on regional units until real conservation

measures are in place, not just proposed.

Recommendation 5- Shouldn't water allocations be rated according to use (not just the ability to pay a higher cost)? Also, small yards in coastal cities get more use out of acre foot of water than an acre in Central Valley. (Agriculture is always exception.)

Recommendation 6- With precipitous fish declines even in wet years, can DWR and State agencies explain how they plan to balance Delta water diversions/transfers for contracted supplies with their mandated restoration of the integrity of the Estuary?

Recommendation 7- It seems long overdue that California implement Bermuda style conservation measures and accept drought conditions as likely norm every 7 years.

Recommendation 9- Bermuda style house/yard design is best option for 'new' water.

Recommendation 10- Global climate change demands extreme range of alternatives.

Recommendation 11- The time for scientific understanding needs to really give way to enlightened environmental engineering at this point. Action can not be postponed.

Recommendation 12- 13- 14 Protection of Public Trust Resources is essential and please, at top of list, place health and well being of anadromous and indigenous fish.

I'm sorry that my faxed comments from abroad did not come through, on June 29. Do appreciate any consideration that you can give to them at this time.

Libby Lucas,
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